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POLAND-USSR: Jaruzelski To Travel to Moscow

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Polish party leader Jaruzelski will visit Moscow after this week's Central Committee plenum.

Walesa is in good physical and mental condition. The government has revealed its plans for "tame" trade unions.

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TASS yesterday reported that Polish party leader Jaruzelski will go to Moscow in early March. On Wednesday and Thursday the Central Committee will hold its first plenum since the imposition of martial law.

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Comment: The announcement of such a visit has been expected. The Soviets will want Jaruzelski to reassure them that he intends to curb popular resistance and maintain full control. They will press him to go further toward outlining a program for revitalizing the economy and rebuilding the party.

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Party sources told Western journalists that the Central Committee session will discuss Jaruzelski's tenure as party leader and how long military rule should last. The meeting will also assess the extent of opposition and the future of the trade union movement.

Comment: Failure of the party's highest body to meet had become an increasingly embarrassing reminder of its impotence and probably an irritant to Moscow. The leadership probably concluded that, whatever the differences between moderates and conservatives, the Central Committee had to be convened to give at least the appearance of tackling its own and the country's problems.

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Church Attitudes

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the Church's efforts to play a mediating role continue to be frustrated by the regime's refusal to enter negotiations with Solidarity or to make concessions to the Church in other areas. Walesa was in good physical and mental health.

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The press report of Walesa's release in time for his daughter's christening on 7 March was a Church trial balloon, but the regime has yet to respond.

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[redacted] the regime might move against some outspoken clerics, even arresting some, but this would be a manageable irritant. [redacted]

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Trade Unions Proposal

The Polish Government has presented for public discussion its proposal for the reestablishment of trade unions. The document says that unions will be self-governing and independent from the state and that their opinions will be "seriously taken into account" on economic questions. [redacted]

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Future union activities will, however, be under strict supervision. Unions will not be allowed to enter into "antisocialist political activity," their right to strike and establish relations with Western unions will be severely curtailed, and persons known for their "destructive actions" will not be allowed to return to union activity. [redacted]

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Comment: The regime clearly foresees only the return of "tame" unions which will exclude almost all of Solidarity's leaders and advisers. It seems unlikely that such unions can establish much credibility with workers, and the demand for "real" unions will continue to plague the government. [redacted]

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SOMALIA: Riot in Hergeysa

//The tribal riot on Saturday in Somalia's second-largest city, Hergeysa, in which several demonstrators reportedly died, is the most extreme expression yet of rising unrest within several Somali clans, particularly in the north.//

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//Discontent has been fanned by recent economic difficulties and anger over corruption in the bureaucracy, which is dominated by members of President Siad's Marehan clan. The major northern tribe, the Ishaaks, traditionally resent domination of the government by Marehan, from the south and are particularly distressed by the harsh administration of their region by General Ganni, a Marehan.//

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//The current troubles occurred when Ganni ordered the arrest of 21 Ishaak professionals for alleged dissidence last November and later executed several Ishaak Army officers for unrelated offenses.//

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Comment: //Siad may now respond by transferring Ganni to another region--a key demand of Ishaak leaders. He is less likely to make economic concessions. While tribal unrest cannot be ended entirely, Siad can control the current situation if he moves quickly.//

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INTERNATIONAL: LDC Conference

Representatives of 45 developing countries will begin a three-day conference today in New Delhi to assess the results of the conference on Third World economic cooperation in Caracas in May and the Cancun summit on North-South relations in October. [redacted]

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The conference will focus on bridging differences among developing countries concerning a UN resolution that would launch Global Negotiations. The resolution calls for the UN General Assembly to review the work of such specialized UN agencies as the World Bank and the IMF. [redacted]

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General Assembly Vice President Naik will circulate a proposed text at the conference that takes into account US demands for protecting the competence of the specialized agencies. He believes that the US and most developing countries will accept it and hopes that Third World hardliners--who want a stronger, guiding relationship between the General Assembly and the specialized agencies--will yield to the majority. [redacted]

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India invited 11 of the 13 OPEC members to the conference because it wants to establish a dialogue between OPEC and oil-importing developing countries as part of the program for Third World economic cooperation. [redacted]

Comment: Naik's prospects for success depend on his ability to convince the conferees that he can obtain US approval of his text. At a minimum, his initiative will prevent the hardliners from monopolizing the session to promote their view of Global Negotiations. OPEC members suppressed the oil issue at the conference in Caracas and will rebuff any attempt to place OPEC policies on the conference agenda. [redacted]

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MEXICO-NICARAGUA: Mexican President's Speech

Mexican President Lopez Portillo, speaking in Managua yesterday, called for a halt to the Nicaraguan arms buildup but linked this to a "balanced reduction" of troops in the region by urging the disarming of "Somozist" bands that attack the Sandinistas from Honduras and the cessation of training for such groups in the US. Arguing that US security is not threatened by developments in Nicaragua and El Salvador, Lopez Portillo said that the US should eschew armed intervention in either country. He suggested instead that the US and Nicaragua's neighbors sign nonaggression pacts with the Sandinistas, and pursue a negotiated settlement in El Salvador, and that the US renew high-level efforts at dialogue with Cuba.

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Comment: Despite recent private statements by Mexican officials that Lopez Portillo's attitude toward the Sandinistas has hardened, the speech indicates that he is not prepared to alter Mexico's support of them. At a time when Latin American governments are becoming more critical of the Sandinistas, Lopez Portillo has said that assistance for Nicaragua is a "true cornerstone" of Mexican foreign policy. Lopez Portillo's emphasis on the external threat to Nicaragua suggests that his fear of US-backed pressure against Nicaragua continues to outweigh his uneasiness with Sandinista repression.

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AFGHANISTAN-US: Denial of Visa to US Diplomat

The Afghan Government has refused to authorize a visa to Arch Blood, the US Charge-designate. Afghan Deputy Chief of Protocol Daneshjo cited Blood's former contacts with Afghan expatriates while he was Charge in New Delhi as a major factor in the decision. Daneshjo implied that broadcasts of the Voice of America and of the British Broadcasting Corporation that were hostile to the regime also influenced the denial. [redacted]

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Comment: The refusal was undoubtedly approved by Moscow. It is intended to coerce the US into upgrading the level of its representation in Kabul and normalizing relations with the Babrak Government. [redacted]

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USSR-VIETNAM: Economic Concerns

The USSR's economic planning chief, N. K. Babykov, arrived on Thursday in Hanoi. [redacted]

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Comment: Babykov visits Vietnam regularly, but the timing of this trip--shortly before the Vietnamese party congress--suggests that it may not be routine. The preconference deliberations indicate that there is opposition to economic policies adopted in the past year or so. The Soviets like these policies, particularly the more market-oriented approach to agricultural production, and they probably want to strengthen the hand of those who favor them. The Soviets' interest stems in large part from their desire to reduce their expenditure of hard currency on commodity aid for Vietnam. [redacted]


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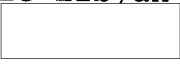
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LIBYA-TUNISIA: Meeting Scheduled


Libyan leader Qadhafi and President Bourguiba are scheduled to meet in Tunis tomorrow. There is no indication of the expected length of Qadhafi's stay. Bourguiba reportedly may withdraw the invitation if Qadhafi announces publicly that he will not return the original text of the Jerba agreement, which was signed in 1974 and subsequently abrogated by Tunisia. The agreement would have created a single Libyan-Tunisian state with Bourguiba as president. 

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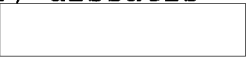
Comment: By meeting with Bourguiba, Qadhafi hopes to improve his image and encourage francophone African leaders to attend the coming OAU summit in Tripoli. Bourguiba wants to secure the original copy of the Jerba agreement. The signing of which he considers one of his few serious mistakes--and he apparently believes that Qadhafi will return it. Opponents of close ties to Libya have been temporarily silenced by the prospects for buying time to strengthen Tunisia's defensive posture against Libya and improving cooperation on subjects such as offshore oil exploitation and Tunisian migrant workers in Libya. 

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SIERRA LEONE: Potential for a Coup

Discontent over corruption, labor and student unrest, increasing crime, and a bleak economic picture is increasing dissatisfaction with 83-year-old President Stevens. He recently sought to increase his control of the military by purging officers of questionable loyalty. 

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Comment: Stevens is an astute politician who has weathered repeated challenges since coming to power in 1971, including a general strike last September. No immediate threat of a coup is evident, but the government probably will be tested by outbreaks of violence before the next election, which may be scheduled for April or May. The officers that Stevens removed were popular, and the purge may increase military dissatisfaction and further weaken the government. 

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MOROCCO - SAUDI ARABIA: Security Accord

The Saudi and Moroccan Interior Ministers reportedly concluded an agreement in Riyadh on Saturday providing for Moroccan assistance in training Saudi security forces. The agreement comes two days before a scheduled meeting in Riyadh of the interior ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Although Morocco stations some troops in the United Arab Emirates, the bilateral accord with the Saudis is the first of its kind that Rabat has signed with a Persian Gulf country. [redacted]

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Comment: The agreement is another indication of heightened Saudi concern about Iran after two aborted coup plots against Bahrain since December. Moroccan help will not result in a significant upgrading of Saudi security capabilities any time soon, and Riyadh probably will turn down--as it has before--Moroccan offers to provide troops. Nonetheless, the agreement may open the door for similar Moroccan assistance to other Gulf Cooperation Council states--Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and the UAE. Rabat may calculate that Saudi financial aid to Morocco will now be more forthcoming. [redacted]

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AUSTRIA: Possible Leadership Change

//Chancellor Kreisky's deteriorating health has increased the likelihood that he will resign this spring. [redacted]

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[redacted] speculation is growing that he is no longer capable of leading the government or the ruling Socialist Party. Kreisky has not groomed a successor, and none of the leading contenders have much experience in foreign policy--a field Kreisky has reserved for himself.// [redacted]

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Comment: //A new government probably would initially focus on domestic concerns, avoiding the visible international role Kreisky has sought for Austria.// [redacted]

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